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SITUATION IN INDIANA

State Will Be One of Fiercest Battlegrounds in Approaching Presidential Election.

HAS ALWAYS BEEN DOUBTFUL

Chances Are Favorable, However, to Republicans—Root Talked of for Governor of New York.

Washington, July 8.—(Special.)—Now that both of the great parties—and, for that matter, the two smaller ones—have named their presidential candidates, the question of vote-getting will come up, and politicians are already figuring on the possibility of the democrats gaining strength enough to elect their man. As Indiana is one of the states where the battle will be furiously waged, its past record will prove of interest.

Indiana has not gone democratic since 1892, and in that democratic record-breaking year it gave but a plurality of 7,125. However, in those figures one must recognize the fact that the populist vote was 22,303. Four years later, when both democrats and populists voted for Bryan, the republican plurality was 18,181, but about 10,000 prohibition votes were cast that year with one or the other of the great parties, the prohibitionists vote for president in 1892 having been 13,950 and in 1896 only 3,054. As the democratic vote in 1896 was about 40,000 larger than in 1892, and the republican vote about 68,000 larger, probably the bulk of these 10,000 prohibition votes went to the republicans. From these figures it will be seen that a change of 30,000 or even more votes in Indiana in the course of four years is not remarkable.

Indiana gave McKinley a plurality of 26,470 in 1900, when both the republicans and the democrats had the aggregate of the democrats being 309,584, and of the republicans 333,062. That year the prohibition strength returned to about what it had been in 1892, the exact prohibition figures for 1900 being 13,718. Two years ago, in the election for secretary of state, the republicans polled a plurality of 35,554, but that was due in part to the larger stay-at-home vote among the democrats, who polled over 46,000 less votes than in 1900, while the republicans polled about 34,000 less votes.

Accordingly, the normal republican majority which Indiana democrats have to overcome this year is not 35,000, as one hears frequently, but about 26,000. The enormous campaign funds poured into that state in the last two presidential years, as against a democratic exchequer almost empty, are considered the reason for regarding Indiana as fairly good fighting ground.

The vacillation of Indiana between the two parties back in the '70s and the '80s, before the intense modern methods in politics prevailed and when the voting population was about a third less than now, showed a change of approximately 12,000 votes quinquennially. Tilden carried the state by a plurality of 5,515, the total democratic vote being 213,526, and the republican vote 208,011. Four years later Garfield carried the state by 6,641, and four years after that Cleveland had 6,512, while in 1888 Harrison pulled through by the narrow vote of 2,348. No one can doubt that the tendency toward the republicans is stronger in Hoosierism now than in earlier days, but if the democrats are fortunate enough to be united this year the margin promises to be close enough to hold republican boasting in abeyance till after the votes are counted.

Root for Governor.

New Yorkers who went to the Chicago convention talked a great deal about the probability of ex-Secretary Root being the republican nominee for governor this year. They say that the ex-secretary has now been urged to the point where he is in a more willing frame of mind, and there are many who believe he can be persuaded to accept the nomination. Senator Platt's followers are confident that they can swing the state convention in opposition to Governor and Chairman Odell if only they can secure assurance from Mr. Root that he will accept. His fitness for the office is so generally recognized that the delegates will be eager to name him.

The same New Yorkers are confident that the democratic nominee would be John B. Stanchfield, who made an unsuccessful race for governor four years ago. Neither candidate for governor in New York will be nominated for several weeks, during

which the states of the politicians as well as public sentiment, may change materially.

KNOWS WHERE TREASURE IS.

Rhode Island Man Claims Knowledge of Fabulous Deposit.

Victoria, July 9.—The mystery of the famous buried treasure of Cocos island, object of many a romantic quest ending in failure, and discouragement and ridicule for the wealth hunters, is solved at last. Yet if Captain James Brown, of 200 Wellington avenue, Augurn, R. I., writes the truth, the boxes and bags of gold and silver coin, caskets of precious gold and silver, etc., have merely shifted their aluring magnetism; for Captain Brown avers that as long ago as in 1849 he personally assisted in a successful search of Cocos island, participated in the exhumation of the buried store of Peruvian wealth, and bore a hand in their removal to another palm-plumed island in the tropical Pacific, where they are still safely hidden. Captain Brown further declares that he is now the sole survivor of the party officiating at the second burial of the 18 odd millions in the treasure trove, and he is now ready to head an expedition with the recovery of the buried wealth for its purpose. In a letter to Collector of Customs John C. Newbury of this city, he writes:

"I know that several expeditions have been fitted out from your place for the famous Cocos island treasure. The last one, I believe, was the brig Blakely, which failed to find it. The reason it cannot be found is that it is no longer on Cocos island. It was there once, but was removed from there in the latter part of 1849, and planted on another island of the South Pacific and I was one of the men who moved it and the only one living now who knows where it is. Will you be kind enough to show this letter to anyone whom you think would be interested. I want to start another expedition for the treasure, and would be glad to communicate with anyone in the matter."

Captain Brown does not explain why the treasure should have been so long cached the second time, nor why, possessed of such a secret, he should have so long delayed enriching himself, or now require assistance in the organization of a recovery expedition. Hence it is that Victorians with firm abiding faith in the treasure, are nevertheless a trifle shy as to joining in another proposed expedition of recovery. There have been quite a score of searches of Cocos to date, involving millions expenditure, the largest equipped with a variety of electrical finders and other novel scientific appliances.

These many fortune hunts have extended through the past two score years, the most recent and notable being conducted by Admiral Palliser, of the British navy, who utilized upward of several hundred bluejackets, engineers, etc., in his expedition with the first-class cruiser Amphion five or six years ago, succeeded in uncovering an immense stone trapdoor, iron-hinged precisely as promised in an ancient Spanish document of which he had become possessed, and then was barred from further search by expiration of the time at his disposal, coincident with a tropical storm and avalanche which buried the tunnel entrance to a depth of a hundred feet. The admiral shortly afterwards retired from the service, it is reported because of admiralty objection to his utilization of the naval forces on his expedition.

Last year a regularly organized stock company, with capital of \$25,000, and head offices in this city, dispatched the barkentine Blakely to take up the search. She returned with empty holds, and was eventually sold to pay the accumulated wages of the crew, the company having been ruined. Curiously enough many of the shrewdest business men of the coast are still ready to venture their money in Cocos island searches, undiscouraged by the repeated failures of the past, and no doubt Captain Brown will not have long to wait before he can make his trial.

The report of the treasurer of the national prohibition committee shows that the party has the price of 220,000 beers on hand.

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